

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. New claims 17-27 have been added. The specification and claims are amended.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a), since a germicidal ceramic and a sintered magnetic body are not shown in a flow path from the flow path switching valve to the delivery switching valve as set forth in claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Burchard et al. The Examiner comments on page 5 of the Office Action that Burchard et al. provides a raw water flow path "without penetrating the water purification cartridge." The Examiner states that she has interpreted this language broadly as the flow of water which does not have to pass through the purifying material of the cartridge. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The raw water flow path of Burchard et al. penetrates the water cartridge, as clearly illustrated in Figs. 60-63 thereof. Burchard et al. does not provide any teaching of suggestion of flow of water which does not penetrate the water purification cartridge. Burchard teaches that raw water flows through the tube 368, which penetrates the water purification cartridge.

The Examiner makes numerous rejections under 35 USC §103, beginning on page 7 of the Office Action. It is noted that the Examiner comments in item 15 that the applied art to Kanaya et al. can be overcome by submission of a verified English language translation of the priority documents. However, Kanaya et al. is not prior art to the present application. As such, submission of a verified

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English language translation of the priority document should not be required.

The present application is a national stage filing of International Application No. PCT/JP00/02707, filed April 25, 2000. The United States Patent Application Publication to Kanaya et al. is prior art only as of its publication date, i.e., October 24, 2002. In contrast, the published PCT document of Kanaya et al. (WO 01/56445) was published on August 9, 2001. Each of these publication dates is after the international filing date of the present application. As such, the Kanaya et al. references do not appear to qualify as prior art.

It is presumed that the Examiner may be relying upon the international filing date of Kanaya et al. under 35 USC §102(e). The Examiner can not do so since the international publication of Kanaya et al. was not published in the English language. Accordingly, Kanaya et al. does not appear to be prior art. As such, any of the rejections which rely upon Kanaya et al. should be withdrawn.

The Examiner makes various rejections of the dependent claims which rely upon Burchard et al. in view of other secondary references. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections since the secondary references fail to provide the teachings which Burchard et al. lacks, as discussed above. That is, the combination of references fails to teach or suggest a raw water flow path "without penetrating the water purification cartridge."

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

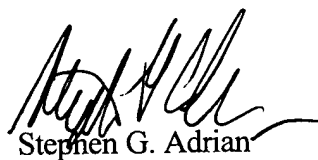
Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicant would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Change of Correspondence Address
Amendment Transmittal Letter

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